

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Methods and network nodes are provided which are adapted to perform protection switching on the basis of raw signal quality information, such as raw BER information, in a manner which instigates the protection switching before an actual failure has occurred. In some embodiments, these methods leverage forward error correction and uncorrected BER to effect traffic redirection before faults are observed at layer 2 and above. This is as opposed to the method of switching layer 2 traffic in response to bitstream characteristics observed at that layer.

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